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Serial No.: 10/004,601
Art Unit: 1756

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

- 1) (Currently Amended) A method for coloring a ~~compound composition~~ with wax-coated pigment granules as colorants comprising the ~~step-steps~~ of adding to the ~~compound~~ a binder resin wax coated pigment granules having a particle size of between 0.05 and 5 mm and a wax content of from 1 to 50% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules to form a mixture, grinding the mixture, classifying the mixture and incorporating the mixture into the composition, and wherein the ~~compound composition~~ is selected from the group consisting of electrophotographic toners, electrophotographic developers, powder coating materials, inkjet inks, electret materials and color filters.
- 2) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules have a wax content of from 5 to 40% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules.
- 3) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax coated pigment particles further comprise an organic pigment, and wherein the organic pigment is an azo pigment or a polycyclic pigment.
- 4) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polycyclic pigment is selected from the group consisting of an isoindolinone, isoindoline, anthanthrone, thioindigo, quinophthalone, anthraquinone, dioxazine, phthalocyanine, quinacridone, perylene, perinone, thiazineindigo, diketopyrrolopyrrole and azomethine pigment.
- 5) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax is selected from the group consisting of natural wax, modified natural wax, semisynthetic wax, fully synthetic wax, amide wax, chlorinated or fluorinated

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polyolefin wax, thermoplastic polyester resin, epoxy resin, styrene-acrylate copolymer resin, styrene-butadiene copolymer resin and cycloolefin copolymer resin.

6) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fully synthetic wax is a polyolefin wax, a cycloolefin copolymer wax or a polyethylene glycol wax.

7) (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the polyolefin wax is a polyolefin wax containing polar groups which has been formed by subsequent oxidation of the polyolefin wax, by graft reaction with monomers containing carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, carboxylic anhydride or hydroxyl groups, or by copolymerization of an olefin and a monomer ~~containing~~ containing carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, carboxylic anhydride or hydroxyl groups.

8) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a dropping point of between 60 and 180°C.

9) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are spray dried.

10) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules further comprise a charge control agent selected from the group consisting of triphenylmethanes; ammonium and immonium compounds; iminium compounds; fluorinated ammonium compounds and fluorinated immonium compounds; biscationic acid amides; polymeric ammonium compounds; diallylammonium compounds; aryl sulfide derivatives; phenol derivatives; phosphonium compounds and fluorinated phosphonium compounds; salt-like structured silicates; calix(n)arenes; resorcinols; cyclically linked oligosaccharides, interpolyelectrolyte complexes; polyester salts; metal complex compounds; boron

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complexes of 1,2-dihydroxyaromatics, 1,2-dihydroxyaliphatics or 2-hydroxy-1-carboxyaromatics; benzimidazolones; azines, thiazines, and oxazines.

11) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the charge control agent is present in the coated pigment granules in an amount of from 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules.

12) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrophotographic toners are selected from the group consisting of liquid toners and powder toners.

13) (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are used in an amount of from 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the overall weight of the ~~compound~~binder resin.

14) (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are in the form of a masterbatch.

15. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a dropping point of between 80 and 140°C.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are used in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight, based on the overall weight of the ~~compound~~composition.

17. (Currently Amended) A colored ~~compound~~composition comprising a binder resin and wax coated pigment granules having a particle size of between 0.05 and 5mm before grinding and classification and a wax content of from 1 to 50% by weight, based on the overall weight of the wax coated pigment granules, wherein the

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colored ~~compound~~ composition is selected from the group consisting of a binder for electrophotographic toners, a binder for electrophotographic developers, powder coating materials, a base for inkjet inks, electret materials and color filters.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the adding step further comprises homogeneously incorporating the binder resin and the wax coated pigment granules.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein homogeneously incorporating the binder resin and the coated pigment granules further comprises extruding or kneading the binder resin and the wax coated pigment granules.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the adding step further comprises adding the coated pigment granules to the binder resin during the polymerization process.